

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012138

61

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:APALMER:LA

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AF-MR. FOLEY

AFR/CWR:BBAHL(DRAFT)

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P R 172242Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, EAIR, MASS,CT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CAR CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER OTINA

1. OTINA, ACCOMPANIED BY CAR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND DIRECTOR GENERAL YAPENDE, HAD ONE HOUR DISCUSSION WITH AID/CWR DIRECTOR SHEAR, AID DESK OFFICER BAH AND AF/C DEPUTY DIRECTOR PALMER, JANUARY 16 JUST PRIOR TO DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FOR PARIS AND BANGUI. OTINA REVIEWED CAR DIFFICULT TRANSPORT SITUATION (LANDLOCKED, RIVER OFTEN UNNAVIGABLE, LACK OF ADEQUATE AIRPORTS AND AIRCRAFT) AND ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY, AIRCRAFT. AID DIRECTOR EXPLAINED CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS ON AID FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND PALMER EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE CAR COULD BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

2. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD CONSIDERED STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 012138

PURCHASES, OTINA SAID CAR LACKED FINANCIAL CAPABILITY.

SHEAR SUGGESTED OTINA CONTACT AIRLINE COMPANIES AND SAID IF SUITABLE AIRCRAFT LOCATED, COMPANIES OFTEN WERE HELPFUL IN ARRANGING REASONABLE FINANCIAL TERMS. AID OFFERED OBTAIN BASIC DETAILS ON TYPES OF PLANES (LOCKHEED AND BOEING) AND PROVIDE TO CAR EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION OTINA, WHO INDICATED HE MIGHT RETURN IN FEW WEEKS. COMMENT:(1) DELEGATION MADE NO CONTACT WITH DEPT UNTIL FEW HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE AND INITIALLY ONLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH STATE DESK OFFICER. SHORTNESS OF TIME MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH COMMERCE, FAA, PRIVATE

COMPANIES,ETC. OTINA WAS ASSURED THAT USG INABILITY TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR GIFT OF AIRCRAFT IN NO WAY INDICATED LACK OF INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING GOCAR SITUATION. STATUS USG AID PROJECTS WAS REVIEWED AND ASSURANCES GIVEN WE CONTINUE TO SEEK FURTHER PROJECTS WHICH MEET CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(2) OTINA SAID PRESIDENT BOKASSA PLANNING VISIT US THIS YEAR AND "WOULD NO DOUBT DISCUSS AID SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD AT THAT TIME." HE ADDED THAT NO PRECISE DATE WAS FIXED.

WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON LATEST AVAILABLE NEWS CONCERNING PLANS FOR BOKASSA TRAVEL TO U.S. POSSIBILITY PRESIDENTIAL MEETING CONTINUES TO BE VERY UNLIKELY. KISSINGER

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